

Bill Crawford

State Representative

District 98



How To Reach
Representative

Bill Crawford

RESIDENCE

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**ANSWER THE
QUESTIONNAIRE ONLINE**

www.state.in.us/R98

Fall, 1999

Dear Friends,

The General Assembly met for an extended Organization Day in mid-November.

The 2000 session is a "short" session, meaning we will begin session January 10 and finish before March 15.

In the short session, each House member may introduce only five pieces of legislation. While we will not re-open the two-year state budget passed earlier this year, the possibility remains that we may fine-tune some of the appropriations outlined in that legislation.

Inside this newsletter is my legislative questionnaire. The questions will provide some details about the topics that may be brought before the legislature. Your opinion is valuable to me as I consider how I will vote.

If you have any concerns or suggestions for change in your state government, please contact me at 232-9600.

Sincerely,



2000 Page Program

Serving as a page during the 2000 session allows any child age 13 or older the opportunity to gain a firsthand glimpse of how the legislative system works. Students will be excused from school on the day they are serving as a page and will spend the entire day at the Statehouse.

Interested students should send me their name, parent or guardian's name, address, phone number, school and two different dates when the student could come to the Statehouse between January 10 and February 29, 2000.

Please remember session is short and places fill up fast, so apply as soon as possible.

Our mission is to create an environment for Indiana's youth that is conducive to both fun and learning, and which will stimulate student interest in government and community involvement. To that end, we plan to educate students regarding legislative processes; to give students an opportunity to meet their community leaders; to encourage student involvement in the community; and to introduce students to other students around the state.

1999 tax cuts total \$672 million

I am very proud to have voted for the 1999 biennial state budget, which provides \$672 million in savings for Indiana taxpayers. I have detailed some of the tax cuts below.

- **Homeowners:** Property taxes on a taxpayer's principal place of residence can be deducted up to \$2,500. The deduction is located on Schedule 1 of the IT-40.

- **Senior citizens:** The income tax deduction for most seniors was increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Each qualified taxpayer may take this deduction, which means married couples may now deduct \$3,000 from their adjusted gross income. Many seniors also received an increase in the property tax deduction from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

- **Dependent children:** The income tax deduction was increased from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for dependent children under age 19 and full-time students under age 24. You may reduce your Indiana adjusted gross income for each qualifying dependent.

- **Renters:** The renters' income tax deduction was increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000. This deduction is located on Schedule 1 of the IT-40, or the back of the IT-40EZ.

- **Small businesses:** Businesses will no longer have to "add-back" property taxes deducted on their federal returns.

- **Inventory tax cuts:** The inventory tax was eliminated for 87 percent of Indiana farms and businesses, saving \$129.6 million.

- **Property tax cuts:** The county welfare funds and the county welfare administration funds were eliminated from local property taxes, saving \$67.6 million.



Rep. Crawford discusses legislation with colleagues in the House Chambers.

Should full-day kindergarten be a reality?

During the 1999 session, legislators debated the merits of instituting optional full-day kindergarten. While some thought funding full-day kindergarten in school districts was a viable plan, others opposed the idea.

Often in the legislative process it takes several sessions for legislation to pass. It is likely that the legislature will revisit the kindergarten issue in the 2000 session.

Studies have shown that most children who attend full-day kindergarten are better prepared for first grade than children who attend half-day kindergarten. A full day in the classroom allows teachers more time to present academic material as well as enrichment activities such as art, music, computer technology and literature.

Currently, less than 12% of all kindergarten students attend a full-day program in Indiana's public schools.

One study of 8,290 kindergarten students reveals that high test scores can be linked to participation in full-day kindergarten. Specifically, this study indicates a five to ten percentile-point difference in standardized test performance favoring full-day kindergarten students over half-day students. Positive outcomes of the full-day kindergarten programs identified in the study included fewer grade retentions and lower incidence of Title 1 placements.

Other studies, from across the country and within Indiana, show similar findings:

- In a study of 511 kindergarten students, "full-day students outperformed half-day students on every criterion measured by the Early School assessment norm-referenced achievement test."
- Students in the developmentally appropriate full-day program in Crawfordsville have shown an average developmental growth gain of 17.4 to 24 months.

2000 Legislative Survey

Questions

1. Do you believe inducements like enterprise zones and tax abatements are an effective use of tax dollars to spur economic development?
2. Should the Legislature delay the implementation of new property assessment guidelines created by the State Board of Tax Commissioners that will shift the property tax burden to homeowners when they take effect?
3. Do you favor passage of legislation that increases penalties against people who commit crimes against someone solely because of race or sexual orientation?
4. Indiana presently ranks 48th in the nation in the amount of benefits provided to workers injured while on the job. Should injured workers be compensated at higher rates?
5. If state government had to choose, should it provide tax incentives to attract new jobs for manufacturers of items like automobiles or appliances, or for high-tech jobs like chemical and drug companies?

A. ManufacturingB. High-tech
6. Do you believe that people have the right to hold their health maintenance organizations (HMOs) legally responsible for the health care decisions they make?
7. Do you believe that patients should be able to receive drugs prescribed by their doctors without approval from their HMOs?
8. Should Indiana provide funding to school corporations that choose to offer a full day of kindergarten?

Responses

	<i>Respondent 1</i>		<i>Respondent 2</i>	
1.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
5.	A <input type="checkbox"/>	B <input type="checkbox"/>	A <input type="checkbox"/>	B <input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
8.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Your Comments

Place
Stamp
Here

Rep. Bill Crawford
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House Publications Available

The following publications can be requested free of charge from my Statehouse office by calling 232-9600:

Relax . . . -- This informational booklet for senior citizens discusses a variety of issues, from taxes to health problems to leisure activities.

Higher Education -- A 24-page publication for those interested in pursuing a higher education degree, detailing many Indiana colleges and universities as well as occupational and vocational schools.

Guide to State Agencies -- This booklet details various agencies within Indiana state government, listing phone numbers, functions and general areas of responsibility for each of the state agencies.

Hoosier Fun and Facts -- Designed for elementary school-aged children, this information and activity book teaches students about their state through a combination of text, puzzles and other educational activities.

Attention Teachers

We the People . . . Project Citizen is a civic education program for middle school students. The Indiana House of Representatives will help to facilitate the state finals on May 5, 2000.

For information on how to involve your students, please contact:

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2805 E. Tenth St.
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812-855-0467 / 800-266-3815

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